



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNERS NOW ELIGIBLE FOR LA COUNTY'S INOVATIVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM**

In a step meant to reduce carbon emissions and improve Los Angeles County's air quality, on Tuesday the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a contract for the International Brotherhood of 848 TCWH to receive \$250,000 worth of green improvements to their Long Beach facility. The union was the first business in the county to take advantage of the Los Angeles County Energy Program, which is open to any commercial property owner. Commercial property owners save money through reductions in water and energy usage by installing solar panels, cool roofs, energy efficient lighting and water heaters through the program.

Under the program, instead of paying up front or taking out a traditional bank loan, participating property owners will be able to finance the improvements by adding it to their property tax bill. Also, owners looking to sell don't need to worry about paying off a loan before the sale, because the assessment stays with the property. Interested property owners can learn more about the program at <http://www.lapace.org/>.

Over the course of time, the program is designed to reduce greenhouse emissions throughout the region. According to the U.S. Green Building Council, buildings account for 65 percent of electricity consumption and 30 percent of

greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. By using viable energy efficiency measures in existing buildings, energy consumption can be reduced as much as 20 percent.

“This program is a cornerstone of Los Angeles County’s mission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make our region healthier and more environmentally sound,” said Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chairman Mark Ridley-Thomas, who authored the motion to implement the financing program. “I encourage all commercial property owners and residential property owners to take advantage of the county’s programs and begin saving on their energy costs.”

Residential property owners throughout the county can also take advantage of rebates and financing opportunities to retrofit their homes through the Energy Upgrade California program. To learn more about the program, please visit [www.energyupgradeca.org](http://www.energyupgradeca.org) and [www.green.lacounty.gov](http://www.green.lacounty.gov) .

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